



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/678,441	10/02/2000	Robert G. Arsenault	PD-200020	4396

20991 7590 12/01/2004

THE DIRECTV GROUP INC
PATENT DOCKET ADMINISTRATION RE/R11/A109
P O BOX 956
EL SEGUNDO, CA 90245-0956

EXAMINER

SHANG, ANNAN Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2614

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/678,441	Applicant(s) ARSENAULT ET AL.	
	Examiner Annan Q Shang	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/01/01/04/08/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-44, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipation by **Eyer et al (6,401,242)**.

As to claim 1, note **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, method and apparatus for designating a preferred source to avoid duplicative programming services and further disclose in a system broadcasting a first signal (National or Global-IPG) having service channels (ABC, NBC, Disney channel, Nickelodein, etc.,) uniquely describing by a service channel identifier, at least a portion of the service channels transmitting programs including a first set of programs (Global-IPG programs) and a second set of programs (Local-IPG programs) to a plurality of receiver stations (Integrated Receiver Decoder, IRD 130 or 300), a method of providing second program guide (Global and Local) information describing the second set of programs only to a subset of the plurality of receiver stations (IRDs 130 or 300) that comply with at least one service criteria, comprising steps of:

the claimed "segmenting the programs into at least one service group..." is met by IPG Translator (IPGT) 220 and MPEG-2 Encoders (Encoders) 1-N or 220-230 (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 44-67 and col. 8, lines 6-32), note that IPGT 220 and Encoders 1-N receives continuous flow of Interactive Program Guide (IPG) data (National or Global-IPG/Regional or Local-IPG) and encodes or bundles "segmenting..." audio/video (A/V) data "programs" from the Global/Local programming services to "at least one services group" such as a region, specific geographical area, preferences or interest of subscriber with respect to each IRDs 130, etc., according to a regional or geographical specific programming "one service criteria" the service group comprising Regional-specific or local-IPG programming "second set of programs;" and assembles the Regional or Local-IPG data (col. 6, lines 1-30 and col. 10, lines 10-31);

the claimed "transmitting the first signal having first program guide information..." is met by Transmitter 110 (fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 47-52), which transmits the broadcast signal "the first signal" having the Global-IPG data "first program guide information" describing the Global-A/V programs "first set of programs" to the IRDs 130 "receiver stations" on a first service channel and the Regional-Local-IPG data describing the Local-A/V programs "second set of programs" to the IRDs 130 on a second service channel offset from the first service channel; and where each of the subset of IRDs 130 stores information identifying the second service channel (col. 5, lines 60-67, col. 8, lines 16-32 and line 57-col. 9, line 22), note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all logically offset by the difference between

assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11), Furthermore Global-IPG and Local-IPG data are offset by duplicative channels (col. 10, lines 33-38), by a 24-bit number (col. 15, line 66-col. 16, line 3) and also by gaps in the program schedules (col. 18, lines 15-44).

As to claims 2 and 3, Eyer further discloses transmitting at least one message to the subset of IRDs 130 or 300, the message comprising information identifying the Local service channel (col. 5, lines 60-67) note that IPG data (Global and Local) includes program title, program description, etc., "at least one message" to a region-specific IRDs 130 or 300, which are also information identifying the Local service channel including a service identifier, such as, ABC, NBC, CBS, Disney channels, local news, etc., to the Local service channel (col. 15, line 54-col. 16, line 8).

As to claim 4, Eyer further discloses where the service criteria, is a location of the IRDs 130 or 300 in a geographical region (col. 8, lines 6-22, lines 33-38 and line 57-col. 9, line 22).

As to claim 5, Eyer further discloses where the service criteria is an association of the IRDs 130 or 300 with a market region (col. 8, lines 22-28, lines 33-38 and line 57-col. 9, line 22).

As to claim 6, Eyer further discloses where the service criteria is an association of the IRDs 130 or 300 with a market preference or interest (col. 6, lines 13-18, col. 8, lines 22-28, and line 57-col. 9, line 22).

As to claims 7 and 8, Eyer further discloses accepting IRDs 130 services preference, storing in Subscriber Authorization Center (SAC) 240, comparing the subscriber service preference with the service criteria, region-specific programming and transmitting a message to the at least one of the subset of the IRDs 130, the message comprising the information identifying (col. 5, lines 60-67) note that IPG data (Global and Local) includes program title, program description, etc., the second service channel if the subscriber service preference meets the service criteria and where the subscriber services preference is accepted from a IRDs 130 (col. 6, lines 13-18, col. 8, lines 22-28, and line 57-col. 9, line 22).

As to claims 9 and 10, the claimed "determining if the receiving station is intended to receive the second program guide information..." is met by Microprocessor 170 of Integrated Receiver Decoder(s) (IRDs) 130 (fig. 1, 4, col. 6, line 53-col. 7, line 15, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38), which receives and determines if IRD 130 "receiver station" is intended to receive Local-IPG data "second program guide information" describing Local-Audio/Video (A/V) programs "second set of programs" selected from the A/V programs (col. 5, lines 44-col. 6, line 18 and col. 8, lines 16-32) each the A/V programs belonging to a service group, such as, a region, specific geographical area, preferences or interest of subscriber with respect to each IRDs 130, etc., according to a regional, geographical, preferences, etc., specific programming "one service criteria" and receiving the Local-IPG data on the second service channel of the first signal is the IRDs 130 is intended to receive the Local-IPG data and presenting the Local-IPG data (col. 6, line 65-col. 7, line 25 and lines 51-56) where the IRDs 130 is

configured to receive bundles Local-IPG data on the second service channel and recover only the IPG data for its region (col. 8, lines 47-67);

As to claim 11, note **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, method and apparatus for designating a preferred source to avoid duplicative programming services and further disclose in a system broadcasting a first signal (National or Global-IPG) having service channels (ABC, NBC, Disney channel, Nickelodein, etc.,) uniquely describing by a service channel identifier, at least a portion of the service channels transmitting a plurality of programs (Audio/Video "A/V" programs), a method of receiving program guide information (Global-IPG and Local-IPG) comprising steps of:

the claimed "determining if the receiver station is intended to receive second program guide..." is met by Microprocessor 170 of Integrated Receiver Decoder(s) (IRDs) 130 (fig. 1, 4, col. 6, line 53-col. 7, line 15, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38), which receives and determines if IRD 130 "receiver station" is intended to receive Local-IPG data "second program guide information" describing Local-Audio/Video (A/V) programs "second set of programs selected from the A/V programs (col. 5, lines 44-col. 6, line 18 and col. 8, lines 16-32) each the A/V programs belonging to a service group, such as, a region, specific geographical area, preferences or interest of subscriber with respect to each IRDs 130, etc., according to a regional, geographical, preferences, etc., specific programming "one service criteria" where IRDs 130 receives bundles of National or Global-IPG data "first program guide information" describing the Global-A/V programs on the first service channel and receives Local-IPG data "second program guide information" describing the Local-A/V programs "second set of

programs” on a second service channel only if the IRDs 130 is intended to receive the Local-IPG data and recovers only the IPG data for its region (col. 8, lines 47-67); note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11) by the IRDs 130.

Claims 12 and 13, are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 2 and 3.

Claim 14 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 4.

Claim 15 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 5.

Claim 16 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

As to claim 17, note **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, method and apparatus for designating a preferred source to avoid duplicative programming services and further disclose a program guide subsystem (National or Global-IPG/Regional or Local-IPG) , for use with a broadcasting system having a first service network (National or Global-IPG) broadcasting a first signal having service channels (ABC, NBC, Disney channel, Nickelodein, etc.,) uniquely described by a service channel identifier, at least a portion of the service channels transmitting programs to a plurality of receiver stations (Integrator Receiver Decoder(s), IRDs 130 or 300), the program guide subsystem comprising:

the claimed “a compiler, configured to segment the programs into a first set of programs and a second set of programs according to at least one service criteria...” is

Art Unit: 2614

met by IPG Translator (IPGT) 225 and MPEG-2 Encoders (Encoders) 1-N or 220-230 (figs. 1, 4, col. 5, lines 44-67 and col. 8, lines 6-32), note that CATV 140 (col. 6, line 23-31) includes IPGT 220 and Encoders 1-N “a compiler,” a headend system, which receives National or Global-IPG data “first program guide information” and Regional or Local-IPG data “second program guide information” and uses channel grouping criteria, such as common source, field of interest, etc., (col. 6, lines 6-22 and col. 15, line 54-col. 16, line 3) to configure bundles of Global and Local Audio/Video (A/V) programs “segments of programs” into Global-A/V programs “first set of programs” and Local-A/V programs “a second set of programs” according to a service group criteria, such as, by region, by specific geographical area, by preferences or interest of subscriber with respect to each IRDs 130, etc., based on a regional information, geographical information, preferences information, etc., “one service criteria” (col. 6, lines 1-30 and col. 10, lines 10-31), and assembles the Global-IPG data describing the Global-A/V programs and Local-IPG data describing the Local-A/V programs;

the claimed “a transmitter, communicatively coupled to the compiler, for transmitting the first program guide information on a first service channel...” is met by Transmitter 110 (fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 47-52), which is couple to Trans 220 and transmits the Global-IPG data “first program guide information” describing the Global-A/V programs “first set of programs” to the IRDs 130 “receiver stations” on a first service channel and the Regional-Local-IPG data describing the Local-A/V programs “second set of programs” to the IRDs 130 on a second service channel (col. 5, lines 60-67, col. 8, lines 16-32 and line 57-col. 9, line 22),

Claims 18 and 19, are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 2 and 3.

Claim 20 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 4.

Claim 21 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 5.

Claim 22 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

As to claim 23, note **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, method and apparatus for designating a preferred source to avoid duplicative programming services and further disclose a receiver (Integrated Receiver Decoder, IRD 130 or 300) for use with a broadcasting system having a first service network (National or Global-IPG) broadcasting a first signal having service channels uniquely identified by a service channel identifier, at least a portion of the service channels transmitting a plurality of programs, the apparatus comprising:

the claimed "a processor, for determining if the receiver is intended to receive second program guide information..." is met by Microprocessor 170 of Integrated Receiver Decoder(s) (IRDs) 130 or 300 (fig. 1, 4, col. 6, line 53-col. 7, line 15, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38), which determines if IRD 130 "the receiver" is intended to receive Local-IPG data "second program guide information" describing Local-Audio/Video (A/V) programs "second set of programs selected from the A/V programs (col. 5, lines 44-col. 6, line 18 and col. 8, lines 16-32) each the A/V programs belonging to a service group, such as, a region, specific geographical area, preferences or interest of subscriber with respect to each IRDs 130, etc., according to a regional, geographical, preferences, etc., specific programming "one service criteria" and

the claimed “tuner, communicatively coupled to the processor...” is met by where Data Receiver 332 of IRDs 130 or 300 (col. 6, line 53-col. 7, line 15, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38) which is coupled to Microprocessor 170 and receives bundles of National or Global-IPG data “first program guide information” describing the Global-A/V programs on the first service channel and receives Local-IPG data “second program guide information” describing the Local-A/V programs “second set of programs” on a second service channel only if the IRDs 130 is intended to receive the Local-IPG data and recovers only the IPG data for its region (col. 8, lines 47-67); note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11) by the IRDs 130 or 300.

Claim 24, is met as previously discussed with respect to claims 2 and 3.

Claim 25 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 4.

Claim 26 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 5.

Claim 27 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

As to claim 28, note **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, method and apparatus for designating a preferred source to avoid duplicative programming services and further disclose in a system broadcasting a first signal (National or Global-IPG) having service channels (ABC, NBC, Disney channel, Nickelodein, etc.,) uniquely describing by a service channel identifier, at least a portion of the service channels transmitting

Art Unit: 2614

programs including a first set of programs (Global-IPG programs) and a second set of programs (Local-IPG programs) to a plurality of receiver stations (Integrated Receiver Decoder, IRD 300), a apparatus for providing second program guide (Global and Local) information describing the second set of programs only to a subset of the plurality of receiver stations (IRDs 130 or 300) that comply with at least one service criteria, comprising steps of:

the claimed "means for segmenting the programs into at least one service group..." is met by IPG-Translator (IPGT) 220 and MPEG-2 Encoders (Encoders) 1-N or 220-230 (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 44-67 and col. 8, lines 6-32), note that IPGT 220 and Encoders 1-N receives continuous flow of Interactive Program Guide (IPG) data (National or Global-IPG/Regional or Local-IPG) and encodes or bundles "segmenting..." audio/video (A/V) data "programs" from the Global/Local programming services to "at least one services group" such as a region, specific geographical area, preferences or interest of subscriber with respect to each IRDs 130, etc., according to a regional or geographical specific programming "one service criteria" the service group comprising Regional-specific or local-IPG programming "second set of programs," MPEG-2 Encoders 1-N or 220-230 are also "means for assembling..." the Regional or Local-IPG data (col. 6, lines 1-30 and col. 10, lines 10-31);

the claimed "means for transmitting the first signal having first program guide information..." is met by Transmitter 110 (fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 47-52), which transmits the broadcast signal "the first signal" having the Global-IPG data "first program guide information" describing the Global-A/V programs "first set of programs" to the IRDs 130

"receiver stations" on a first service channel and the Regional-Local-IPG data describing the Local-A/V programs "second set of programs" to the IRDs 130 on a second service channel offset from the first service channel; and where each of the subset of IRDs 130 stores information identifying the second service channel (col. 5, lines 60-67, col. 8, lines 16-32 and line 57-col. 9, line 22), note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all logically offset by the difference between assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11), Furthermore Global-IPG and Local-IPG data are offset by duplicative channels (col. 10, lines 33-38), by a 24-bit number (col. 15, line 66-col. 16, line 3) and also by gaps in the program schedules (col. 18, lines 15-44).

Claims 29 and 30, are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 2 and 3.

Claim 31 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 4.

Claim 32 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 5.

Claim 33 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

Claims 34 and 35, are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 7 and 8.

Claims 36 and 37, are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 10 and 11.

As to claim 38, note **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, method and apparatus for designating a preferred source to avoid duplicative programming services and

further disclose in a system broadcasting a first signal (National or Global-IPG) having service channels (ABC, NBC, Disney channel, Nickelodein, etc.,) uniquely describing by a service channel identifier, at least a portion of the service channels transmitting a plurality of programs (Audio/Video "A/V" programs), a apparatus for receiving program guide information (Global-IPG and Local-IPG) comprising steps of:

the claimed "means for determining if the receiver station is intended to receive second program guide..." is met by Microprocessor 170 of Integrated Receiver Decoder(s) (IRDs) 130 (fig. 1, 4, col. 6, line 53-col. 7, line 15, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38), which receives and determines if IRD 130 or 300 "receiver station" is intended to receive Local-IPG data "second program guide information" describing Local-Audio/Video (A/V) programs "second set of programs selected from the A/V programs (col. 5, lines 44-col. 6, line 18 and col. 8, lines 16-32) each the A/V programs belonging to a service group, such as, a region, specific geographical area, preferences or interest of subscriber with respect to each IRDs 130, etc., according to a regional, geographical, preferences, etc., specific programming "one service criteria" where IRDs 130 includes Data Receiver 332 "means for receiving" bundles of National or Global-IPG data "first program guide information" describing the Global-A/V programs on the first service channel and receives Local-IPG data "second program guide information" describing the Local-A/V programs "second set of programs" on a second service channel only if the IRDs 130 is intended to receive the Local-IPG data and recovers only the IPG data for its region (col. 8, lines 47-67); note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service

channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11) by the IRDs 130 or 300.

Claims 39 and 40, are met as previously discussed with respect to claims 2 and 3.

Claim 41 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 4.

Claim 42 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 5.

Claim 43 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

As to claim 44, note **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, method and apparatus for designating a preferred source to avoid duplicative programming services and further disclose in a system broadcasting a first signal (National or Global-IPG) having service channels (ABC, NBC, Disney channel, Nickelodein, etc.,) uniquely describing by a service channel identifier, at least a portion of the service channels transmitting programs including a first set of programs (Global-IPG programs) and a second set of programs (Local-IPG programs) to a plurality of receiver stations (Integrated Receiver Decoder, IRD 130 or 300), a signal embodied in a carrier wave, the signal produced by performing the method steps of:

the claimed "segmenting the programs into at least one service group..." is met by IPG-Translator (IPGT) 220 and MPEG-2 Encoders (Encoders) 1-N or 220-230 (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 44-67 and col. 8, lines 6-32), note that IPGT 220 and Encoders 1-N receives continuous flow of Interactive Program Guide (IPG) data (National or Global-IPG/Regional or Local-IPG) and encodes or bundles "segmenting..." audio/video (AV)

data "programs" from the Global/Local programming services to "at least one services group" such as a region, specific geographical area, preferences or interest of subscriber with respect to each IRDs 130, etc., according to a regional or geographical specific programming "one service criteria" the service group comprising Regional-specific or local-IPG programming "second set of programs;" assembling the Regional or Local-IPG data (col. 6, lines 1-30 and col. 10, lines 10-31);

the claimed "transmitting the first signal having first program guide information..." is met by Transmitter 110 (fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 47-52), which transmits the broadcast signal "the first signal" having the Global-IPG data "first program guide information" describing the Global-A/V programs "first set of programs" to the IRDs 130 "receiver stations" on a first service channel and the Regional-Local-IPG data describing the Local-A/V programs "second set of programs" to the IRDs 130 on a second service channel offset from the first service channel; and where each of the subset of IRDs 130 stores information identifying the second service channel (col. 5, lines 60-67, col. 8, lines 16-32 and line 57-col. 9, line 22), note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all logically offset by the difference between assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11), Furthermore Global-IPG and Local-IPG data are offset by duplicative channels (col. 10, lines 33-38), by a 24-bit number (col. 15, line 66-col. 16, line 3) and also by gaps in the program schedules (col. 18, lines

15-44).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gordon et al (6,754,905) disclose data structure and methods for providing an interactive program guide.

Klosterman (6,072,983) discloses merging multi-source information in a television system.

Thomas et al (5,666,645) disclose data management and distribution system and method for an electronic television program guide.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q Shang** whose telephone number is **703-305-2156**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-500pm**.

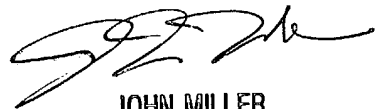
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John W Miller** can be reached on **703-305-4795**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**.

Art Unit: 2614

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Annan Q. Shang.



JOHN MILLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600